

94. *Sitta carolinensis*. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Rare. Have seen young being fed by old birds early in July.

95. *Parus bicolor*. TUFTED TITMOUSE.—Very common.

96. *Parus carolinensis*. CAROLINA CHICKADEE. — Uncommon. An early breeder. Have found fully fledged young on May 24.

97. *Polioptila cærulea*. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.—Quite rare. Saw a family of young Gnatcatchers being led about by old ones, on August 12, 1886.

98. *Turdus mustelinus*. WOOD THRUSH.—Common. Regarding the material composing the nest, Dr. Coues says: "As is well known, the nest of this species is saddled on the bough of a bush, shrub, or low tree, and has mud in its composition" ('Birds of the Northwest,' p. 2). In 'Avifauna Columbiana,' p. 34, he contradicts this statement, and speaks as follows: "The nest, placed in a bush or sapling, differs from that of the Robin in having no mud in its composition." As far as the writer's experience goes, and it accords with that of other collectors here, the nest of the Wood Thrush *does* contain *considerable* mud. The number of eggs found in a nest is usually four, and the nest is placed in a small sapling or tree, anywhere from four to twenty feet from the ground.

99. *Merula migratoria*. AMERICAN ROBIN.—Common. Begins nesting about the middle of April.

100. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD.—Common.

FEEDING HABITS OF *PELECANUS ERYTHRO-* *RHYNCHOS*.

BY N. S. GOSS.

NATURALISTS that have not seen the White Pelicans upon their feeding grounds, have without doubt read Audubon's interesting description of the manner in which the birds unite and drive the fishes into shallow water, where they can catch them, which they cannot well do in deep water, as their skins are honeycombed with air cells that buoy them up like a cork, and prevent their diving, * and they do not plunge for their food when upon the wing, like their cousins, the brown Pelicans, and therefore have to adopt fishing habits suited to shallow waters. I have often noticed the birds in flocks, in pairs, or alone, swimming on the

*The statement in 'North American Birds—Water Birds,' Vol. II, page 137, that this species "dives with great celerity" must be an error.

water with partially opened wings, and head drawn down and back, the bill just clearing the water, ready to strike and gobble up the prey within their reach; when so fishing, if they ran into a shoal of minnows, they would stretch out their necks, drop their heads upon the water, and with open mouths and extended pouches scoop up the tiny fry. Their favorite time for fishing on the seashore is during the incoming tide, as with it come the small fishes to feed upon the insects caught in the rise, and upon the low forms of life in the drift, as it washes shoreward, the larger fishes following in their wake, each from the smallest to the largest eagerly engaged in taking life in order to sustain life. All sea birds know this and the time of its coming well, and the White Pelicans that have been patiently waiting in line along the beach, quietly move into the water, and glide smoothly out, so as not to frighten the life beneath, and, at a suitable distance from the shore, form into line in accordance with the sinuosities of the beach, each facing shoreward and awaiting their leader's signal to start. When this is given, all is commotion; the birds, rapidly striking the water with their wings, throwing it high above them, and plunging their heads in and out, fairly make the water foam, as they move in an almost unbroken line, filling their pouches as they go. When satisfied with their catch, they wade and waddle into line again upon the beach, where they remain to rest, standing or sitting, as suits them best, until they have leisurely swallowed the fishes in their nets; then, if undisturbed, they generally rise in a flock, and circle for a long time high in air.

Off the south coast of Florida (a coral formation) the shoal water often extends out for miles, and the tide is scarcely perceptible. There the birds have no occasion to drive, but gather their food by coursing, and in such places the Brown Pelicans, so expert in dropping upon their prey in deep water, are forced, in order to save their necks unbroken, to feed in like manner; this is especially noticeable in the shallow ponds in the Everglades. Several years ago, in the month of September, I had the pleasure of observing a small flock of the birds fishing in the Neosho River, Kansas. When late at evening they were forced by tired wings to stop in their southward flight, the place selected was in still deep water, at the head of a fall, or rapids, in the stream, where the water for some fifteen rods, and with a depth of about

six inches, was rippling and dashing over the rocks, a natural feeding ground for the fishes. The birds, after first bathing and dressing their feathers, giving particular attention to their primaries, without any unity of action, as hunger moved them, floated down over the rapids, picking up the fishes here and there, until the still water below was reached, when they would rise and fly back, to float down again, leisurely repeating this mode of fishing until it was quite dark.

NOTES ON *GYMNOSTINOPS MONTEZUMÆ*.

BY N. S. GOSS.

THE birds are known by the natives as the 'Oropendula,' also as the 'Inca Bird,' but are generally called 'Yellow-tailed Cassiques,' or rather 'Yellow-tails.' They are quite common in the low forest lands of Central America, upon the Atlantic side, but I did not find them on the Pacific slope, nor upon the high mountain lands. They are social in their habits, going in couples, and generally in flocks of from ten to fifty or more. They are noisy; their voice is harsh, coarse, and discordant, an indescribable jargon; even their whistling notes are not musical. In their food habits they are omnivorous, but seem to prefer fruits and berries, often doing great damage on the plantations when the bananas, plantains and mangos are ripening. For breeding purposes they select large *thorny* trees in an open space where the limbs of other trees do not touch, so as to be beyond the reach of reptiles, monkeys, raccoons, and other climbing nest robbers.

Their pendulous, gourd-shaped nests, which are suspended to the ends of the boughs of the tallest branches, are strongly and ingeniously woven of fibrous strippings from plants and frond-like leaves, with here and there a rootlet; the bottoms are lined with leaves. Some writers state that the birds build their nests of grasses, but I have been unable to find any in those that I have examined, and I am inclined to think *this large species* rarely,